

Collaboration: An Example

Background

At lunch, a faculty member, instructional technologist, and a reference librarian talked about how much access to information has changed for students since their undergraduate days. Instead of going to the library or using a library database, students turn on their computers and "Google" ® a topic, the three lamented. The faculty member saw a decline in the quality of students' papers. The instructional technologist observed that students want to use images or film, but don't know how to do so, while the librarian noticed a decline in the number of students coming to the information desk. The three decided to collaborate on a project to help students learn how to find and use information, particularly images and other media, to improve their academic projects. The librarian approached the library director, the instructional technologist talked to the C.I.O., and the faculty member spoke to the provost about release time and summer funding. All agreed, but said that the trio had "to do" an evaluation.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of their project was to collaborate to improve students' learning, specifically in finding and using multimedia. To attain that goal, they had several objectives related to student learning outcomes and collaboration. Because collaboration is so important to everyone, this workshop activity focuses on evaluating the collaboration portion of the project.

Activities to evaluate the collaboration:

I. Project Definition: Collaboration Objectives and Activities/Strategies

What is the project? What are goals, objectives, and related activities?

What exactly do you want to evaluate? What is your "make a difference" concept?

II. Focusing: Identifying Stakeholders, Purposes, and Uses

Why do you want to evaluate? For what purposes? How will results be used? And by whom? What decisions will you/they make based on evaluation findings?

III. Evaluation Framework

What questions do you want answered? What information (data) do you need to answer the questions? Which assessments will give you the best information for your needs? What criteria or standards do you have for your findings? Who does the work, when?